30 December 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Ralph Preston, Staff Assistant, House Appropriations Committee, on the House Amendment to Section 838 of the Defense Appropriation Bill

1.   Ralph Preston called this morning and asked if I had seen the newspapers, adding that they had "taken care" of us in the Defense Appropriation bill. I told him I had seen the paper and was just looking at the floor debate in yesterday's Congressional Record.

2.   Preston said that all of the members of the Senate were in agreement with the House language except Senator Ellender. I asked Preston if he thought Ellender was influenced by Woodruff, whom I understood had become irritated with us for providing Mr. Mahon with the language which he ultimately used with some adjustments. Preston said he felt that Ellender was reflecting the pressure he was receiving from Mansfield, Fulbright and others and not Woodruff.

3.   Preston said that in the final analysis a trade-off was arranged whereby the House agreed to drop the Mahon language from the so-called "Cooper-Church amendment" to the bill if the Senate would retain the same language as a proviso to the Fulbright amendment. I expressed concern with Woodruff's irritation about the Agency's involvement in the bill and told Preston that I had made it clear to Woodruff that we were merely responding to a request from Mr. Mahon in the same way we would have responded to a similar request from Senator Russell or Senator Ellender. Preston said he felt Woodruff had been under extreme pressure in the last few days and thought he would get over his "pique." Preston also said he thought Woodruff had been influenced by Maurice Lanman, Assistant General Counsel (Fiscal Matters), Department of Defense. He said Lanman had been trying to "peddle" some language on the Hill and he felt Lanman might have stirred Woodruff up.

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Acting Legislative Counsel

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